

Rosenthaler (being cyclic polypeptides) are structurally remote from the rapamycins. Thus, *contra* to the Examiner's conclusion, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine these references "with the expectation" of producing rapamycin-specific antibodies. The Examiner's characterization of the rapamycins as "immunogens" is without basis. If the Examiner maintains the rejection, it is requested that the Examiner support the statement that these compounds are known immunogens.

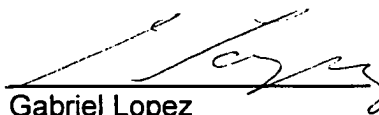
Claims 8-10 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over the above references and further over Niwa. The rejection is traversed. Rather than support the rejection, Niwa's teaching of antibodies raised against a single compound strongly suggests that it is an extremely narrow teaching from which there should be no expectation of applicability to other compounds. Furthermore, since the mechanisms of immunosuppression are different for FK506 (tacrolimus, the Niwa compound) and rapamycin, this further limits the teachings of the Niwa reference to its specific compound. Tacrolimus acts at the cellular level by forming a complex which further complexes with calcineurin. However, rapamycin forms no analogous calcineurin complex. Since the mechanisms through which the compounds act are different, there can be no expectation that the teachings of Niwa would be successful when applied to rapamycin.

It is requested that the amendment be entered and that the Examiner reconsider the rejection in view of the amendment and remarks and that the case be passed to issue.

A two-month extension is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a) to respond to the Office Action of October 3, 2001. Charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis Corporation in the amount of **\$400** for payment of the extension fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 4, 2002